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The Text to Movie feature available at www.xtranormal.com is a great literacy resource. Students can make movies by typing in text or pasting from another document. Then they simply drag and drop camera angles and character gestures onto their script.

Signing up

It is a good idea to sign up for a free account as this lets you save your movies and download them or embed them into a Wiki or Blog. Visit www.xtranormal.com and click on create account.

Give yourself a user name and password and fill in the required details. Make sure you write down your user name and password.

Getting started with Text to Movie

1. Click on the "Make Movies" link at the top of the screen.
2. Choose a "ShowPak" and then click on how many actors you want; one or two.
Note, at the time of writing only some of these "ShowPaks" were completely unlocked. "Playgoz" is a good theme to start with as it has a large number of backgrounds and characters to choose from.
3. When you click on the Actor button it will load the movie making interface.

The interface

DIRECT THE ACTION
Drag these action icons into your script.



The "Direct the Action" bar enables you to drag actions or camera angles onto your script.

The camera is for different camera angles.



The person is for animations e.g. waving or clapping.



The smiley face is for expressions e.g. happy or sad.



The eyes allow you to make the character look at the current camera.



The pointy finger allows your character to point.



The pause button allows you to add pauses into the script.



The speaker allows you to add music or sound effects such as laughter.

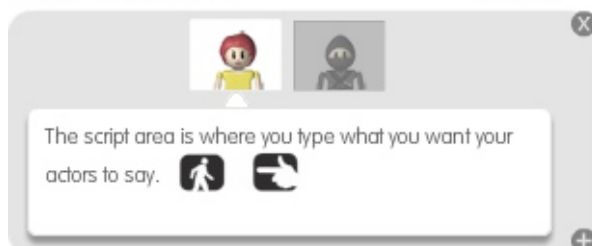
DESIGN THE SCENE
Change your set, soundtrack, and actors.



Design the scene at the bottom of the page enables you to change the scene background and add music and change the appearance of your two actors. Click on the scene or actors to see a list of available options. If the scenes or actors have a little padlock over their image it means they are locked. Some "ShowPaks" have a lot of locked content. When you are choosing an actor you will also get an option to change their voice.

WRITE THE SCRIPT

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The script area is where you type what you want your actors to say. Drag icons from the left into the script to add animations and different camera angles. At the top you have an icon for each actor, make sure you click on the actor that you want to be saying the script.

To start the next part of the script click on the "+" button at the bottom of the script.

The order that animations and text are in should be the order that it runs in.

The "Magic Cam" button will automatically change camera angles for you depending on which actor is talking.

Previewing, saving and publishing

You have changed the script.
Click to screen a new preview.



Need a break? Save for later.

Take 5

To preview your movie you need to click the action button so that all the changes in script and direction can be loaded. This may take 1-2 minutes depending on how long your script is.

When it has finished you will be able to play your movie by clicking the play button in the preview window on the right.

Because this preview can take time, it is advisable to do more than one script before previewing. Previewing every change would involve a lot of waiting.

The take 5 button will save your unfinished movie into the "In Progress" tab when you are in the "My Movies" menu. This can be unreliable so it is advised that you try and finish and publish your movies in one sitting.

Once you have completed your movie and you have previewed it, the action button will turn into "It's A Wrap".

Looking good!
publish your movie and share it with your friends

IT'S A WRAP!

1. Click on "It's A Wrap" for publishing options.
2. Give your movie a name and a brief description.
3. Click on publish.
4. You will then be taken to your "My Movies" page and a video saying "Movie is rendering please check back soon" will be displayed. Wait a minute and then click on the "My Movies" link at the top of the page.
5. This will bring up a list of all the movies you have published.
6. Click on the name at the top of your movie to get publishing options (see arrow).
7. This will bring up an options bar and an embed code.

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Share Favorites Add to Playlist Flag YouTube Publish HQ Download

8. Use the YouTube link to load the video to YouTube or use the download link to get a High Quality version saved on your computer. If you use the download option you will need to visit your "My Movies" page after a few minutes and click on the "High-Res downloads" link to download your movie.
9. On the right hand side is the embed code for putting your movie into a Blog or Wiki site.

URL <http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/6391>
Embed `<object width="480" height="390"><pa`

Notes